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State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES

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23 March, 1999

Peter Hess

Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining

Price Field Office

451 East 400 North

Price, UT 84501-2699

RE: Rilda Canyon surface facility access

Dear Pete,

Thank you for requesting input from the Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR) on the Deer Creek Mine request to access Rilda Canyon Facilities to upgrade the pump facilities. Based on consultation of raptor survey data, and field observation made by Chris Colt (DWR) and Bob Willey (Energy West) (3/23/99), there are no direct wildlife conflicts which would require denial of this request. This is based on the limited amount of disturbance (no need for snow removal, as well as, 1-2 trips a day in a 1-ton truck, and the majority of the work being done inside the facilities), fact that there are no active raptor nests within 1/2 mile of the road or work site, and the lack of current big game use in Rilda Canyon. At times, Rilda Canyon is important to big game, particularly elk. However, at the present time, elk are not concentrated in Rilda Canyon. For additional help or clarification, please contact Chris Colt (Habitat Biologist) at 435-636-0279.

Sincerely,

Miles Moretti

Regional Supervisor

Post-It® Fax Note

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Date	3-25-99	# of pages	2
To	Joe		
From	Pete		
Co./Dept.	Co.		
Phone #	This goes w/ the item		
Fax #	in pps final - Read your e-mail!		

FILE
DEER CREEK
ACT 10/10/98
FOLDER #2

Pete Hess - Rilda Road Access

From: <DeFreest_Jeff/r4_m-l@fs.fed.us>
To: <nrogm.phess@state.ut.us>
Date: Tue, Mar 23, 1999 5:37 PM
Subject: Rilda Road Access

Pete- As discussed on the phone today, I reviewed the proposal submitted by Deer Creek Mine to access their facility in Rilda Canyon and I consulted with various specialists about potential impacts.

Discussion with Bob Willey at the mine convinced me they couldn't do the task thru the mine since it was to be done by an outside contractor who needed his own truck & tools to accomplish the pump work. My understanding was that the contractor and an assistant would use a 1-ton flat bed truck to get in for 1 or 2 days work in early April. It should not require numerous vehicles nor any heavy equipment.

Discussion with Rod Player, FS Wildlife Biologist, revealed that with the road being pretty clear this year, many vehicles, primarily lion-hunters, have been in and out of the area already; so one more truck shouldn't affect the quality of winter range conditions for the elk herd.

Chris Colt of DWR called and agreed with Rod's opinion on the winter range and also added there'd be no problems related to raptor nesting at present.

John Healy, Acting District Ranger concurred, so as far as we are concerned you can permit the temporary access for this specific project.

CC: <jhealy/r4_m-l@sv2wo.wo.fs.fed.us>, <rplayer/r4_m-...